GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO VILLAGES
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra;Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in West Bengal and Maharashtra yet to be provided with telephone facility;

(b) whether the targets for the year 2004-05 have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) As on 30.06.2005, telephone facility is available in 37,306 and 33,166 inhabited, accessible, undisputed and undisturbed villages of West Bengal and Maharashtra respectively. While West Bengal is fully covered, 4,816 villages in Maharashtra are yet to be provided with telephone facility.

(b)&(c)Yes, Sir. There was no Village Public Telephone (VPT) target for West Bengal as all villages had already been provided with telephone facility. In Maharashtra Circle 1,416 VPTs were provided against the target of 892 for the year 2004-05.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.